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TRUSTEES' SECTION

The meeting of the Trustees' Section was held in the Ball Room of the New Monterey Hotel, Tuesday afternoon, June 27. Mr. W. T. Porter, trustee of the Cincinnati Public Library, and chairman of the section, presided.

After a few introductory remarks the chairman introduced Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, president of the Indiana Public Library Commission, and trustee of the Connersville (Ind.) Public Library, who read a paper on "The trustee's obligation to the state."

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Mrs. Earl was asked if the meetings of the library trustees association, of which she had spoken, are called by the Commission, and if they were attended by trustees from all public libraries of the state.

Mrs. EARL: The organization started through the Commission because they felt the advisability of it, but it is entirely independent and has nothing to do with the Commission, except that the Commission coöperates in any way that they may be helpful. It is composed of the trustees of all of the public libraries and any other trustees of libraries, whether it be school, university, or special libraries.

Mr. RANCK: I would like to ask a question as to the title of the paper: "The trustee's obligation to the state." Now, in some states there is a feeling on the part of the municipal authorities that the obligation should be not to the *state* but to the municipality—to the city—and there is a very strong movement in some states to eliminate what they regard as the state's control over the educational interests of the state. This is a matter that all of us ought to be interested in, because this comes up at one time or another, both in local and state-wide movements. In the first place, the American Library Association has gone on record that education is a matter of state rather than purely local concern, and in more than one state there is a feeling of resentment against that posi-

tion. In the state of New York they believe control over educational matters should rest more largely with the authorities representing the local communities, than with the state. I should be glad, for my own information, to have an expression from some of the persons here on the subject of the trustee's local status.

Mrs. EARL: I would like Mr. Ranck to be more specific. I confess this is something new to me. It seems to me from my point of view to put more things on the state than really belong to the state.

Mr. RANCK: In most of our states the educational interests are organized under one clause—and the library is entitled to be considered one of the educational interests—and the local government under another clause, and the educational interests which are represented are controlled largely by state legislation. Now, on account of the growing expense and the increasing taxation payable by the municipal government, a large part of which is on account of educational expense, both of school and library, the city officials feel that they ought to be in position to exercise not only more control but absolute control; in other words, that the whole taxing power of the local community, both for educational purposes and for local municipal government ought to vest in one body, and that would be the common council or the authorities represented by it.

Mrs. EARL: Mr. Chairman, I hope that the good Lord will in time deliver all the library interests from the common council of the average city! It is fortunate in Indiana the library boards can control the tax for the libraries, to a certain limit which the state fixes by law, and that seems wise and to work well with us. I feel the library should be a distinct educational force in the state.

Mr. PURD B. WRIGHT: We do not agree with the attitude of Mr. Ranck. In Kansas City we resent being classed with

the city by the city authorities. Our schools are a distinct corporation.

Mr. RANCK: That is true in Michigan.

Mr. WRIGHT: Our schools are in no wise connected with the city administration; the funds are not collected or handled by it, or assessed and levied. We do not want to be connected with the municipalities. They are the same corporate body, the same stockholders, but they exercise no authority in the selection of boards of education. We have higher class boards of education in every instance than we do aldermen.

Mr. SANBORN: I was interested in what Mrs. Earl said about Indiana conditions, because we seem to be just in the opposite direction from what Mr. Ranck indicates would be the feeling in Michigan. We have, as Mrs. Earl says, three taxing bodies in Indiana: we have the city council, the school board and the library board, which makes its own levy, and in going around to help establish libraries we find that as soon as the people learn that the taxing power is not going to be in the city council, so that it will go ahead and raise their taxes,—as soon as they get rid of that feeling,—they are perfectly willing that we should go ahead and they will levy their own tax. I find it is very much easier to have them separate, and the citizens feel better than when it is under one taxing head.

Mr. MILAM: I should like to raise the point in this discussion as to whether it is not a trifle inconsistent with the commission form and the city management form of government to have conditions such as Mr. Wright describes in Kansas City. Is there not likely to be the tendency running along with the tendency toward commission form of government of placing the authority with the commission rather than settling it all by state legislation? Now, I happen to be familiar with conditions in Indiana, as they were two or three years ago, and with conditions in Alabama as they are today, and it happens that in Indiana you have a state government on which you can depend. In

Alabama we have a city government which is the only decent government we have in the State. In Alabama we can depend absolutely on the Birmingham City Commission, which lines up behind everything that is good and against everything that is bad, whereas the county and state government are absolutely in politics of the old variety.

It seems to me, however, that aside from these local conditions, with the commission form of government, we must eliminate eventually, at least, a part of the state control; and furthermore, and along a somewhat similar line, I believe the tendency will also be to do away with the library board and with the school board. I know that in our city there has recently been recommended the establishment of a public welfare board, and the Commission has said, "Very well, we will take over the public welfare work of the city, but we will not create any new board. The public holds us responsible and we will supervise the work. The amount necessary will be paid directly by the Commission, and not through any board." I may say there is no "boss" in the city of Birmingham. While those conditions reign we are glad to have the tendency as it is; when the conditions change we will be glad to go back to some other form.

Mr. RANCK: The Committee appointed by the National Municipal League to work out this problem as it relates to libraries, in their draft of a library section for a city charter, contemplate management under the commission or business manager form of government. Those who are on the committee would like to get all light possible from the various states, because we realize it is a difficult problem to deal with. We are interested in knowing the feeling on the part of cities where they have a Commission form of government and where they have this tendency to centralize the taxing power all in one body.

Rev. E. J. CLEVELAND: There is an interesting situation that has developed in the state of New Jersey on account of the enactment of the commission govern-

ment law, which went into effect in President Wilson's first year of his administration as governor. The Commission Government Act provides, among other things, that the schools shall be excepted from its provisions, and then it leaves out everything else. The Public Library Act, which was passed originally in 1884, and amended in subsequent years, which is adopted by various municipalities which are going to have their libraries supported by the public moneys, provides that there shall be a board of trustees consisting of five members appointed by the mayor and approved by the other members of the governing body, with the mayor himself and the superintendent of schools as *ex-officio* members. It is also provided in that Act that the support of the library shall be provided by one-third of the regular fund. This is a mandatory clause, and it is supplemented by a permissive clause of one-sixth in addition if the governing body sees fit. When this commission government went into effect in the various states there was an obvious conflict of authority. The schools were excepted from its provisions, that is true, but the libraries apparently were under its provisions. We find in the state of New Jersey today in some commission governments, at least, we have library boards. That is true in Jersey City and Burlington. In other places they have been eliminated; that is true in the cities of Bayonne and Hoboken, and this city of Asbury Park. The library is a part of the mayor's department in this city, and it has worked out very well. In the city of Hoboken it has not worked out so well. I believe in the two or more cities where they still retain their library board it has worked out well. It means that when you reduce the thing to its simplest terms the personal element is found to be the important element. Here are men from the several states telling of poor local government and who find everybody engineering to get the personal influence behind themselves. In the city of Hoboken I am confident it is not working out well. Librarians will appreciate the fact that the first

act of the Commission after the law was adopted was to reduce the librarian's salary by \$500 on the basis of economy, and the next week to appoint a brother-in-law of the commissioner of public safety a sergeant of police. So that was all in the interest of good city management! That is the way things apparently work out, and I think it comes down to a condition of confused legislation. I have been talking with a number of men from other states and asked what they are doing to provide against this piling up of laws on the statute books and amending them year after year, where one act conflicts with another, and the politicians come out on top. We are afraid in this state to do anything with our library act, for we are afraid if we get to tampering with it some of its most valuable provisions will be taken away. So we are acting on the proposition that when you get the good element in control you must keep it there and trust the good Lord not to allow anybody to "monkey" with your legislation.

Mrs. EARL: May I ask the gentleman from New Jersey how he can keep that best element in? New Jersey has missed its opportunity: to give women the vote.

Miss AHERN: The personal touch, of course, has a great deal to do with all these things. I have recently come to believe that we have too much government; too many kinds of government; too many boards; too many forms of government. I said the other day, because I was sort of in a corner, that if we had a national government and municipalities it would be much better than to have so many state and county and township governments, and all the rest of it, and I do believe, from my experience, that the plan which they have adopted in Indiana, and which we have in a somewhat different form in Illinois, that of making the library a separate interest of the state, as the schools are separate, works for the advantage of the library in the best way. Now, Michigan is a queer library state. It is better than any place else in spots, and then it retains the archaic form of school trustees and there is the feeling in some places there is

nobody else that knows anything save the school people and what they say is the beginning and the end of wisdom. But it all comes back to the sort of library which you give to the community. If you have a good library the question of support and control is a secondary one, unless it gets to be such a powerful engine as our schools are in Chicago, and the politicians think they can use it. The question of the quality of the library force depends in large degree on the kind of trustees, and as I had the honor of saying on the menu card at noon, what I had before said, as to the kind of libraries, it means in the end and the beginning the sort of trustees you have. What Mrs. Earl says about the good work of the Indiana Trustees' Association is true, but it is largely because she has had so much wisdom in her commission work that the trustees are afraid not to do what she says. However, I doubt, myself, the wisdom of trustees and librarians keeping apart in council, and in arrangements for the betterment of library conditions. If you have good trustees and poor librarians, it will only be a half accomplished work, and if you have good librarians and poor trustees the people will come nearer getting what they ought to have out of books, but it will be at the expense of the heart and life of the librarians, and after all, I think we can not improve on the old counsel that in the multitude of counselors there is bound to be some wisdom.

The CHAIRMAN: If you will pardon me for speaking to the question while I am presiding, I will say that in Ohio we have practically two classes of libraries: the municipal library and the school district library, and I am not certain but what we have still another library, and that is the Cincinnati Public Library, because it is neither one of the other two. We know we stand alone in the peculiar character of the library, and its management. We have a municipal library in Ohio, which as you may understand is provided for by the council and by a board elected by the council. We have the school district library, which is provided by the school district

funds, the fund not being the same fund at all; sometimes the school district is very much larger than an ordinary city, as was the case with Cincinnati. The Board of Education elected the members of that particular body, but in 1898 we desired to extend our privileges and did so by a stroke of the legislative pen, and the county at large provided that there should be a county levy made, which was to be made by the board of trustees of the library. That board certifies a levy to the county auditor. Prior to that the entire amount of taxes with which we operated the library had come from the Board of Education. We took away from the Board of Education in that act the power of making a levy for books, leaving with them, as you will see, the entire amount of money we have had to spend on the management of the library, and vested the power of a five-tenths levy—originally it was only a three-tenths levy—in the board of trustees of the library, and since 1898 our board of trustees has certified to the county auditor a levy, and that levy has been placed upon the county duplicate and collected. We thus took occasion to separate ourselves entirely from the Board of Education, and we are practically an independent library, and thus we belong to that third class in which we are the only one. We are able thus to do whatever we see fit with reference to the library service, and we serve the county of Hamilton entirely. We have in that way extended ourselves all through the county. We have built Carnegie libraries and are maintaining eight or nine of those. There were quite a number of municipal libraries all through the county and we said to them in 1909, "You give us your library and we will maintain it." Those libraries were given to us and we maintain them under our one county library levy. It is under that that our Cincinnati library is governed, and we think we do rather good work in that regard.

Miss AHERN: May I ask you a question right here? If something were to come up to change the government of the Cincinnati Public Library don't you think

you have such a force at the present time that the politicians would take hold of it?

The CHAIRMAN: We have never found they disturbed us very much in that regard. The politicians, to be sure, were in the Board of Education, and we separated ourselves from them and they were very glad, finally, for they were allowed to retain the power of levy. I don't think that there could be a disturbance. Politicians might get control of the money but so far we have been provided in that regard. Practically our library board has been simply a continuing board.

Mr. RANCK: What do you think of the effect of the so-called Smith law on taxation in Ohio, limiting the total amount that could be raised? It hit Cleveland hard. Did they scale you down?

The CHAIRMAN: The levy I spoke of, the five-tenths limit, does not apply to that general state levy. We make one levy for library purposes out of which the entire expenses of the library come. Prior to that new arrangement the old school district levy provided a certain two-tenths levy for books alone; all other expenses came out of the general levy. For some reason they limited the book levy, and they could only use that two-tenths for books at that time. Cleveland is under a different law than Cincinnati. Cincinnati is a law to itself on the library question. The Cleveland Library is under the general library laws of the State.

MARY E. DOWNEY: The law to which Mr. Ranck refers affects libraries all over the state. The Smith law cut the tax fund until it was a great hardship to the libraries all over the state. Utah and some of the other states are meeting that class of legislation which is hurting them. That is one thing trustees ought to look out for. I do not know how long it will be before Utah is coming to it. They usually adjust things but it takes some time to do it. Even the libraries were almost shut down, and there were many changes that hurt. Librarians worked on half salary for months and months. I want to ask one

other question: It has occurred to me not only in this meeting but a dozen times, to know the value of this section. In my library work in different states one does occasionally meet an ideal trustee. We have a few of them. I suppose you have a good many in Indiana, but once in a while we find a few of them. I wonder if these model trustees have not thought or have considered at all working out a simple code for library trustees? Would it be a practical thing; could it be done; to have a committee of these model trustees work out a code that might be used by libraries all over the country? The things we are discussing here are the big ones, they are not the little details. A trustees' code it seems to me would be a very helpful thing. For instance, you have a board of aristocratic trustees in a town of good size. They never have a meeting in the public library; they go out to a clubhouse once a year and have dinner. I know a library in a town of 30,000 population where the trustees never have a meeting in the library. You go to that town; you call on them or send them a letter telling them the things that ought to be done. The trustees of the Cincinnati Library have a meeting in the library. I do not know they do; I presume they do, but a good many trustees do not know the condition of their library building; they can not realize the condition it gets into. I know one city where one trustee comes into the library. The whole board is made up of aristocrats; they have a meeting once a year. It is very hard to work with them. I know a lot of little libraries where they are open until ten o'clock at night and the librarian gets \$25 a month. If complaint is made the trustees say, "There are plenty of others who want the work." It is all you can do to keep your mouth tight shut, when you go to towns and see the girls do all the work of their library for \$25 per month. Things like that we would like to have brought out. It would be helpful, I believe.

Following this discussion the chairman introduced the Hon. David A. Boody, president of the board of trustees of the Brook-

lyn Public Library, who delivered the following address on

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AS A PART OF OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

We need to be very humble after swallowing the portion of the menu provided by Miss Ahern, and if it did not reach our stomach it did reach our conscience, and when we have that new enlarged vision which has been spread out before us we shall certainly try to do better. Now, the trustees even as they exist today have some duties to perform, and they frequently perform them! And they do present reports occasionally, provided they are furnished by their librarians! And yet, as I have said, these trustees do perform certain functions, but we admit from the start what they do has no comparison with the work which the librarians and their associates do. They give to this work thought, and time, and labor, and experience and conscience and life itself, and to that we wish to give full consideration for this work.

Now, I have been very much interested in what has been said here today, but it seems at times as though we were dealing with the top and the branches of the tree rather than with the things that nourish the roots and promote the growth. I do not believe that it depends very much upon the kind of government which you have; I mean whether your library is under municipal administration or whether it is under state authority. Go to one place today, and you will find that the municipal government is much better qualified to administer the affairs of the library than the state government. In another place you will find the state government is better qualified for that work. It seems to me that what we want is not to depend upon any one form of government.

What we ought to remember to do is to magnify the character and the dignity of the library itself and let it make its way. We must insist that it is a part of our educational system, and not an inferior part. Its constituency is much larger than that

of our colleges and of our universities. It is almost, if not fully as large, as that of the common schools. In the Borough of Brooklyn we have 350,000 book takers. I do not know how many they have in Manhattan, but I do know that Greater New York circulates over seventeen millions of volumes.

It may seem a little bit of a departure, but I want to bring the idea that out of these cities as they are constituted today you can get the best results of an educational character. I think it is a great mistake to intimate that you cannot depend upon the people who are in authority. It is the very genius of our form of government that we must rely upon the people, and we must make them capable of our reliance, and they will respond. It is not a pleasant question to discuss, but if we take up the character of the government of the city of New York and the character of the government of the state at large, we shall find out that we can trust our local interests today better with the city of New York than with the state at large. The effort in every legislation is for the state at large to get advantages at the expense of the city of New York, and the state does get many advantages from the city, so that it is not the men that may be in power today, and others that may be in power tomorrow that we should look to so much. It is to rely upon this part of our educational system in connection with the other parts and make men be what they should be, and not rely upon legislation, not rely upon what this man will do or upon what that man will do.

You have spoken about politicians. The statesman is simply the successful politician! I would say to my boys today: Do your part in the political work of the city, and of the state in which you live. It is your moral duty, and you may be called only a politician, simply because you are doing what is called political work. But it is governmental work; it is work that somebody must do, and have your best do it, your educated men, your men that read in your libraries, men educated in

your schools; then you will have the government that will take care of your libraries and take care of your schools; take care of all your institutions.

But, Mr. Chairman, we come right back, after all, no matter what we are talking about, to the heart of the subject: It is education; it is what we believe in. We believe that it is the best preparation for government; it is the best asset. It prepares men better than anything else to enter upon the duties of being a man, and it prepares young women better than anything else to enter upon the duties of being a woman. And so I say we believe in education. Our fathers believed in education, and the colony of Massachusetts as one of its first legislative acts established the common schools, and long before the Declaration of Independence was signed those great institutions of Harvard, and Yale, and Princeton, and William and Mary, were established; Harvard a hundred years before; Yale eighty years before; Princeton between thirty and forty years before; and William and Mary about the same time. And when I think of that fact, of those four great institutions along our Atlantic Coast, I feel as though they were the greatest declaration that has ever been made, and that our fathers very well said, "Look and see these institutions, as illustrating the character of government which we mean to establish and maintain forever!"

I believe that the voices that came from the academic halls of those institutions did more work than the cannon of the Continental Army in defending those great principles of the declaration which maintained that they who support the government should share in its administration. Yes, our fathers believed in education, and we believe in it. They believed it when our population was sparse. They believed in it before the anarchists, and the socialists, and the get-rich-quick men were with us, and if they believed in it, how much more important it is for us today to believe in it, when we see with our own eyes that this land has become the melting pot

of the world. Right here today, when we see this melting pot hung over the flames of a Christian civilization, we should believe in this general education. It has been our salvation through all the ages of our existence, and we need it this very day, so that patriotism, and service, and love of country shall not grow cold in the hearts of our people. We need the product of this melting pot, that it shall ring true, strong, patriotic, American in every purpose and in every effort.

What shall we do, as trustees, to promote this general education which we believe in? It is more important than any of the various forms of administration which have been referred to today. See that every component part of it stands upon an equal footing before the public, before the boards of estimate and apportionment, before everybody that has any authority in administering the affairs of education. I would further urge that we bring our young men into this work, and make them feel that it is honorable; that it is a post of honor, no matter what they may be called. This great system is being handled largely by women. These great institutions are sending into the field women better and better educated than ever before. They must have work to do. They realize their fitness. They realize that they must take some stand in the affairs of the world. What can be better? I believe that this is the place for women's work under any circumstances.

When we started our Brooklyn libraries we had a talk with Mr. Carnegie as to his views in regard to the uses to be made of these library buildings, and he said, "Make them centers of local population; make them civic centers, if you please." These words are used much at the present time. Let them be places for the meeting of the people of the neighborhood. And so I would urge as one other consideration that it is one of the ways by which we can promote the usefulness of these institutions. Lift them up to their position where they stand on their own merits, to be seen by all men and by all women.

Bring the people to these centers and teach them how to work together. What can be accomplished when confidence and purpose go hand in hand! I believe that is one of the ways to build up these institutions. It is one of the things we have not yet learned how to do: the multiplication of units. The tremendous things that can be done where many hands work together, and many hearts and many minds are of one accord. It can be done. How Holland did it when she was defending herself, when she was establishing her institutions of government and of education; those things which blessed the world for centuries. Many of them we pattern after in establishing our own institutions. It is one of the lessons we have got to learn, to put our hands together. We can not live for ourselves alone. Consider how much of our life, our interests, our happiness are connected with the interests and the happiness of others. We must learn to be mutually protective and helpful, and when we have learned to put our hands together for these various purposes we shall know how to make them strong and useful when the great emergencies of life come, as they may come any day, to this people, as well as to the people of other nations.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure we are very much obliged for the inspiring address, and the program indicates that Mr. Bowker will open a discussion. Mr. Bowker, I call upon you to follow Mr. Boody on the subject to which he has addressed himself.

Mr. BOWKER: I do not know, sir, that I can dissect or discuss what Mr. Boody has so eloquently said, but I will spend a very few minutes and a few words on what one knows of trustees from the inside. I think the question was raised early this afternoon which was better and more effective, a good librarian and a poor board of trustees or a poor librarian with a good board of trustees. Now, the ideal which we have in Brooklyn is a good librarian and a well-trained board of trustees, of which Mr. Boody and myself are the notable examples. We both happen to belong to a

board of trustees of another institution. It is a board of fifty members, whose chief function was to try to hold the director back, or down, and we never succeeded. The result was that the trustees were discouraged and it was very difficult to get them together. I do not like to put Dr. Hill to the blush too often, but in Brooklyn we have a model system, in which the librarian is an executive whose board gladly follow his suggestions, but whose board also has the opportunity of knowing everything that is going on and passing upon it very effectively if they so desire.

With respect to the large subject which came up this afternoon: We must not forget, and it is often said, that our series of state governments and our many municipal governments are at once an advantage and a disadvantage. They give us opportunities for reaching the best by experimentation and elimination and we are still going through both of these processes. In New York, as President Boody has said, the library system is in the hands of the city government; in fact, as you know, there are three great library administrations under the one administration of the great City of New York, and all power is concentrated practically in the board of estimates and apportionment, a very small body of seven men, I think, having something like thirteen votes; the mayor and other officials having more than the borough presidents. There the taxation is all concentrated in that board of estimates, and I suppose those of us who are students of government and economics feel that on the whole it is desirable to have a concentration of power. In New York state we favor home rule. Where there is a commission form of government home rule is favored, but as has been said, no one form of government, state or municipal, whether commission or otherwise, is so important as the personnel that composes it, and the public spirit that is behind it. That is really the key to the situation. But I suppose there is more and more public feeling in favor of home rule in municipalities and of the state as a means of control and

regulation. It is rather to keep its hands off in the municipal work, and to intervene only when it can really act as a corrective. It is rather extraordinary that in New York politics have never crept into the library board, although we have only two representatives. The libraries have been conscientiously and carefully administered by the trustees, who hold their meetings in the library, as they should, once a month, and who give careful attention to the details of trustees' work.

In regard to the question of taxation I suppose in that also we are at a very experimental stage, from which we have sooner or later to emerge. We are in wonderful confusion as between national and state and municipal taxes. They overlap each other. There are different taxes; there are different methods and different distributing authorities, and we rather feel that in New York we are in better shape because of the concentration in a few conscientious hands. We have never had even a joint meeting of the three boards of trustees in the three great library systems of New York. I don't know that it would be to the comfort of the librarians if we held such a meeting, but it might be a good plan if we could follow the example of the state of Indiana and have meetings of that sort. In the smaller libraries also I don't know of any case in which any large number of trustees have come together for mutual consultation, but there are many problems common to all libraries, which trustees should thrash out, and if there could be an annual or even biennial meeting of trustees in each state, who would then meet local trustees, as in the meetings of this Section, I think it would be to the benefit of the whole community of librarians and readers. Therefore, it is worth while to get together as many trustees as we can in this Section and thrash out the larger problems which come right home to trustees. There are a good many very difficult problems coming up in relation to libraries. Carnegie contracts have been made and many municipalities are now beginning to default, and that opens a very wide and

difficult range of questions as to library administration. I believe in Texas so many municipalities and other taxing bodies have defaulted that the Carnegie Corporation is rather loath to make any more library grants in that state.

But after all, as has been said, and as can be well repeated, very often the value of your library is the basis of its support. We had in Brooklyn a very interesting episode when it was decided that we should remove a branch from one particular section of the city because one of the new Carnegie branches had been placed sufficiently near to cover that same population. To our great surprise and delight we found quite a revolution in that little community. They held a public meeting; they appointed committees to visit our board and the city authorities, and I don't think the city authorities were ever more impressed with the value of the library as a city institution than when that body of local citizens called upon them to protest against the removal. From our point of view they did not seem to be right; the new branch seemed to serve the community, but it was a great satisfaction to us as trustees to find that this branch work was thoroughly appreciated. And that brings us back to what I really think, as others have said, is the fundamental question: if you are going to have liberal support for your library you must give a service to the public which the public appreciates.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any remarks on the subject, other than what we have had? This Section has performed a good service to the American Library Association. I believe the records indicate that it was at a meeting of this particular Section that the endowment fund of the Association was created. As was suggested, if more trustees could attend these meetings, and have, as they necessarily must have, a common interest in the work and the several different subjects to be discussed, I think it would be advisable.

Mr. WRIGHT: I should like to move before we adjourn that as Indiana has the only association of library trus-

tees, that that association, through Mrs. Earl, be requested to send to the Trustees' Section of the A. L. A. a brief statement, showing some of the things that they have accomplished. If that could be presented to us I think we could use it to encourage other state associations and encourage

other trustees to come to these meetings, which are so helpful.

(The motion was seconded and carried.)

The officers of the Section were continued: Chairman, W. T. Porter, secretary, T. L. Montgomery.

Adjourned.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS ROUND TABLE

The Public Documents Round Table was held at the New Monterey Hotel, Friday morning, June 30. Chairman, George S. Godard, state librarian of Connecticut; secretary, E. H. Redstone, librarian Social Law Library, Boston.

The chairman called attention to the successful meeting of the Round Table held in Washington in 1914, at which representatives of the superintendent of documents and the Joint Committee on Printing explained the printing bill then before the Sixty-third Congress. As this bill failed to be enacted by that Congress it was necessary to formulate and introduce another bill into the Sixty-fourth Congress, which, like its predecessor, included practically all the suggestions which have been made from time to time by librarians and the Government Documents Round Table.

He stated that it was their privilege at the present time to listen to Mr. Carter, clerk of the Joint Committee on Printing, who, through the courtesy of the Committee, was present to explain the provisions of the bill so far as it affected library interests. He then introduced Mr. George H. Carter, who read a paper on "The printing bill."

(See p. 301)

Chairman GODARD: I am sure we have all appreciated the plain statement of the bill before the Sixty-fourth Congress, as set forth by the clerk of the Joint Committee on Printing.

Mr. BOWKER: I am so very much impressed with this that I think we ought to go a bit further, and I move that this body

present its thanks to the secretary of the Committee, and through him to the Joint Committee on Printing for the bill, and the happy presentation of it by their representative.

Mr. CARR: Seconding Mr. Bowker's motion, I wish to say, as one who has had much to do with documents for thirty years, that I do feel, as I listen to Mr. Carter, that while we have not reached the millennium in legislation, I feel that the millennium is almost in sight. I second the motion.

(The motion was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.)

Mr. CARTER: I am sure the Committee will be greatly gratified.

Chairman GODARD: We are especially fortunate in having with us Miss Edith E. Clarke, who has had so much to do with the handling and investigation of public documents, who will present to us "Some observations concerning government publications as they are and as they should be."

(See p. 312)

Mr. BOWKER: I think we may rejoice with Mr. Carter that we have come so much nearer the millennium, and we can also thank Miss Clarke for leading us toward Utopia. The whole question recurs in government documents which for other documents we have solved in most of our libraries. The old systems of issuing and numbering was a sort of fixed location, based on the numbers. You put your government documents right along on the shelves and got your shelves as the series extended, and that was very convenient for the person